

The Four Seasons

Winter Solstice Edition (2003) #11

Graduation 2003



It was great to see so many graduates at this years graduation ceremony. There was a record number of graduates in the Diploma in Arboriculture (with seven) and a large number of Advanced Certificate in Arboriculture graduates as well (sixteen). It was particularly rewarding to see a number of students who have been completing their qualifications over the years, return for the ceremony (not looking any older, but a bit wiser).

It was a great occasion where families, tutors and friends could all gather to recognise and celebrate the achievements of the students.

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Well done to you all.

The graduation ceremony was followed that evening by the Prize Giving, where particularly meritorious performances by individual students were rewarded with prizes. Congratulations to all of the prize winners who demonstrated achievement at the highest level.

Many thanks also to the sponsors of the prizes – your continuing support is much appreciated.

Photo: some of this years Graduates and tutors; left to right

Back row (standing): Andy Harrison, Michael Barton (ACA), John McKeowen (DA), Martin Herbert, John Reid (DA), Steve Wilton (ACA), Steve Whittaker (DA), Warwick Lilley (ACA).

Front row (seated): Pete van der Pasch (ACA), Joss Bishop (DA), Rob Graham, Brent McHardy (ACA), Brian Rickey (DA), Cory Smith (DA).

A complete list of graduands and prize winners is on page 2.

Conference

Don't forget that the Conference on trees and erosion (Slip Sliding Away) is to be held on the 19 – 20 of July. Details and registration form are enclosed within.

It'll be great to see you there.



Research Topics

The following is an extract from Cory Smith's research on 'The Notable Trees of New Plymouth'. It includes his abstract/summary and an example of some of his research. It was a monumental work and we hope this small sample gives you an idea of the flavour and detail of Cory's research

The Notable Trees of New Plymouth

Summary

This report reviews and assesses all of S.W. (Bob) Burstalls (aided by G. Fuller) 1969 and 1973 listing of Historic and Notable trees in New Plymouth city.

From the 213 trees originally recorded 157 (73.7%) still exist.

41 trees out of 56 (73.2%) remain on private property.

Information provided on the remaining trees include updated measurements, their condition, precise locations, points of interest and any other previously recorded and unrecorded material and history.

During this process an additional 140 notable trees previously unrecorded have been incorporated, concentrating on those species renowned for their longevity.

The following text has been written with an emphasis on human interest.

An example;



EXOTIC TREE: 48
 SPECIES: *Cupressus sempervirens* var. *sempervirens*.
 COMMON NAME(S): Italian Cypress, Mediterranean Cypress.
 B.B CATEGORY: Exotic Historic Tree - Local Interest.

ORIGINAL READINGS

LOCATION: St Mary's Churchyard.
 DATE MEASURED: 1969
 HEIGHT: 24 ft (7.3 m)
 CANOPY SPREAD: -
 DIAMETER AT 4 ft: 26 in (66 cm)
 BURSTALL'S NOTES: Larger of two trees planted in August 1847 by John Nairn at the foot of Rev. Bolland's grave at the request of Mrs. Bolland. The first exotics known to be planted in Taranaki. There are two larger and much taller trees of this species at Ratanui, 498 Carrington Rd, they are probably from the same seedlot.

CURRENT READINGS

UPDATED LOCATION: St Mary's Churchyard. 7.5 m from the nearest corner of the church, (closest grave George Patterson C. E), in a straight line towards the Brougham St and Vivian St intersection.

DATE MEASURED: 7th February 2002

HEIGHT: 11.7 m

CANOPY SPREAD: 9.5 m

DIAMETER AT 1.2 m: 76.8 cm

REMARKS: The larger of two trees recorded, both having reasonable health. Supports a very dense canopy and at the time of recording was producing a huge amount of large cones. A limb has been removed just above 1.2 m and is displaying no wound (callus) wood development, (which is probably typical for this species, as they are so slow growing and long lived).

There appears to be some kind of understanding between these two trees as their canopies touch, but only just. They don't intertwine or interfere with each other.

The smaller tree has a dbh = 65.2 cm.

The church has in its possession an extremely old oil painting, depicting the church and it's yard with several scattered headstones. It is possible to identify the two cypress as juvenile trees. On the back of this painting and in faint handwriting is the date 1859.